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REGIONAL APPROACH TO DISARMAMENT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL SECURITY

Working paper submitted by Pakistan

In the post-cold war era, regional disarmament has assumed vital importance for global peace and security. In this context, collective endeavours by countries are necessary at the regional level to promote nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and confidence-building measures. Such endeavours, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region and in accordance with the principle of equal and undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, would enhance the security of smaller States and would thus contribute to international peace and security by reducing the risk of regional conflicts.

In this context, attention is drawn to relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolution 45/58 P adopted by an overwhelming majority on 4 December 1990 in which the Assembly, inter alia, "calls upon States to conclude agreements, wherever possible, for nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels" and "welcomes the initiatives towards disarmament nuclear non-proliferation and security undertaken by some countries at regional and subregional levels".

The following concrete measures are proposed in the context of the regional approach to disarmament.

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A. PROPOSED MEASURES AT REGIONAL LEVEL IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD

1. Conclusion of regional test-ban agreements.

2. Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones. Pakistan's proposal for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia can be applied to other regions as well. The Treaties of Rarotonga and Tlatelolco are good examples of similar agreements already in force.

3. Joint declarations by regional States not to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons.

4. Agreements among regional States against attacks on each other's nuclear facilities. The Pakistan-India agreement on non-attack on each other's nuclear facilities and installations offers a good example.

5. Convening regional conferences to discuss the nuclear non-proliferation issues in a free and friendly atmosphere which may lead the way to concluding legally binding agreements on nuclear non-proliferation at the regional and subregional levels.

B. PROPOSED MEASURES AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL IN THE CONVENTIONAL FIELD

1. Dialogue among regional States for the resolution of outstanding differences/disputes through peaceful means and in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter.

2. Joint renunciation by regional States of policies of interference, intervention, coercion, domination or hegemony or the use or threat of use of force in any form whatsoever.

3. Negotiations among regional States for the establishment of a mutually acceptable military equilibrium in the region through equitable and balanced reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons ensuring equal and undiminished security of all States at the lowest level of armaments and armed forces.

4. Agreement among regional States on restriction/limitations on force deployments and activities especially on force concentrations, in mutually agreed areas.

5. Agreement to set up "hot lines" between heads of State/Government and military commanders of all regional States to communicate directly and immediately with each other whenever necessary.

6. Institutionalization of regular meetings among military commanders of regional States to avoid misperceptions and to overcome suspicions.

7. Agreement to invite observers from regional States to military exercises conducted by any one of them.

8. Agreement on submission to regional States in advance of a yearly calendar of all military movements/exercises/manoeuvres planned for the year.

9. Agreement on pre-notification of unplanned military manoeuvres/troop movements by regional States on a reciprocal basis.